

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
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Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

EPA Region 7 Comments on Republic Services' Intentions to Build Isolation Barrier at West Lake Landfill Superfund Site

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., September 20, 2013) – EPA Region 7 is welcoming a proposal by Republic Services, Inc., to construct an in-ground isolation barrier at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo., Regional Administrator Karl Brooks said today.

Although EPA has not yet seen any formal, detailed work plans that would outline the construction of such a barrier, the Agency learned yesterday that Republic Services intends to announce soon that it will commit to the project. The barrier is intended to separate Bridgeton Landfill, which Republic Services manages, from the radiation-contaminated material stored at the West Lake Landfill Site, which EPA oversees.

"We are pleased that Republic Services has stated its intentions to move ahead of the monitoring work that is required by its agreement with the State of Missouri, and take this significant, positive and protective step," EPA Regional Administrator Brooks said.

On May 14, 2013, Missouri Attorney General Kris Koster announced that his office had negotiated a legal order with Republic Services, requiring the company to take a series of steps to contain and control odorous gases at the Bridgeton Landfill, address the underground smoldering, and provide temporary relocation assistance to local residents affected by the odors. The state's order also requires Republic Services to compensate the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for its costs related to environmental sampling and monitoring. The action was brought under the state's legal authority to regulate Republic Services' operation of the Bridgeton Landfill.

"EPA Region 7 has been in regular communication with the Missouri Attorney General, MDNR and Republic Services about our concerns associated with the smoldering at Bridgeton, and how it cannot be allowed to impact the material at West Lake," Brooks said. "Proactively, we have tasked science and engineering experts at our national and headquarters levels to join our staff in finding solutions to the problem, and they will be joining us in the review of any formal plan for an isolation barrier that Republic Services may put forward."

EPA Region 7 will continue to oversee a separate and ongoing supplemental environmental investigation, focusing on groundwater sampling, radiation sampling, and more detailed site characterization at West Lake Landfill. That investigation ultimately will inform the Agency's work as it develops an amended Record of Decision, which will outline a final remedy for the site.

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Learn more about EPA Region 7's work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site:
http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm

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